

The Goal of these studies:

- To understand what others believe.
- To understand the importance of knowing well what you believe and why.
- To understand that the testimony of many people may make them sound like genuine believers – but they are not.
- To beware of what is not shared by other religions.
- To prepare you to answer false teachers.

Popular Knowledge

- Attack on 9-11
- Osama Ben Laden
- Popular in Middle Eastern Counties
- 2nd Largest Religion (1.8 Billion followers)
- Prayers 5 times per day
- *Qur'an/ Koran* is their Scriptures

A Brief History of the Islam

- A.D. 570 Muhammad born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
Supposedly a descendent of Ishmael (of Hagar in the Bible).

...

- Around A.D. 610 he began to have visual and hearing problems which he believed to be divine revelations.
- He believed these revelations to be from God through the angel Gabriel.
- Over the next 32 years he received revelations that were produced in full written form after he died in 632.

FAQs

- Islam follows the teaching of Muhammad recorded in the Qur'an.
- The two largest groups of Muslims are the Sunnites and the Sh'ites.

- Muslims tend to hold to strict moral teachings which are very similar to the Law of Moses.
- Muslims combine their religion with government so religious sins are also sins against the state. This is called *Shari'ah* Law.

CHRISTIANS

The Bible –

- 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally _____ by God. 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.
- 100% _____ in its details. A natural result of a perfect God perfectly communicating and guiding the writers. Psalm 1:7
- It is the final authority for doctrine and life. Matthew 21:13,16,42
- It is read and understood under the intent of the Author and writers.
- It is understood literally with acknowledgement of clear figures of speech and symbolism.

ISLAM

The Bible -

- The Bible was corrupted by the Jews and Christians.
- The Bible is well respected especially the Law, Psalms, and Gospels.
- The *Qu'ran* (or *Koran*) is the Muslim Bible.
- It contains 114 Suras – or teachings (we might call “chapters”) arranged from shortest to longest.
- The Qu'ran was assembled a few years after the death of Muhammad and contains the revelations to Muhammad
- These are viewed as the true uncorrupted Scriptures, thus better than the Bible.

- The Qu’ran is taught by the local *Imam* (who you would call a “pastor”) at the Mosque (“church”).

CHRISTIAN

God –

- There is only _____ all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere-present, eternal, and infinite God (Psalm 139; Isaiah 45:21-22).
- He exists as one God yet in _____ persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19).
- He is a _____ and does not have a physical body (John 4:24).
- God does not _____ (Mal 3:6)

ISLAM

God –

- There is only one God, named _____.
- There is not trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit.
- God is all-powerful, harsh, and vengeful but also called compassionate and loving.
- God lives in heaven (“transcendent”) and except for the revelations is unknowable and distant.
- God is neither flesh nor spirit but something uniquely different.
- God is changeable.

CHRISTIAN

Jesus and the Holy Spirit–

- Jesus and the Holy Spirit are distinct persons. They are God yet distinct from the Father and each other. (Jn 1:1, 14; Jn 5:18; Jn 8:58; Jn 20:28)

- Jesus, being God, always existed but became a man, being born as a baby. (Jn 1:1; Mt 1:28)
- Upon becoming a man, Jesus also remained being God the Son (above)
- Jesus is _____. (1Pet 2:22)
- Jesus was unjustly tortured and murdered on a cross to pay the penalty for the sins of the world. (1Pet 2:22-24)
- Jesus physically resurrected three days later as witnessed by “more than 500 witnesses at once.” (1Cor 15:3-4)
- Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days later. (Acts 1:3)
- The Holy Spirit is _____ – not the Father or the Son. (Jn 14:16; Acts 5:3-4)
- He indwells believers. (1Cor 6:19; 12:13)
- The Holy Spirit is a person with emotions and volition (will). He is not simply a force or energy (1Cor 12:11) .

ISLAM

Jesus and the Holy Spirit–

- Jesus is one of many _____ of Allah
- Jesus was sinless and performed miracles.
- He is man, not Allah or any part of Allah.
- He was a “slave on whom Allah showed favor”
- Jesus did not atone for anyone’s sins.
- Jesus death on the cross was either miraculously substituted by Judas Iscariot or Jesus was miraculously delivered by Allah from the Romans.
- Jesus ascended into heaven without dying.
- The Holy Spirit is usually viewed as the angel Gabriel.

- He creates the spirits of humans in the womb.
- He gives divine guidance to humans.

CHRISTIAN

Creation, Man, and Sin –

- God created the universe in six 24-hour days (Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11).
- God created the universe out of nothing (John 1:3; Col 1:16-17; Heb 11:3).
- God directly created mankind – not through evolution (Genesis 1:26-31).
- Man was made in the image/likeness of God, but far inferior to God (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:5; Isaiah 55:9).
- Mankind “fell” by rebelling against God’s commands (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12).
- All mankind has a natural desire to _____ (sin nature) and does sin (Romans 1:18-32).
- Sin is a violation of God’s character and commands (Romans 4:15; 1 John 5:17).
- Sin requires _____ punishment in hell (Romans 6:23; 1Thessalonians 5:17).

ISLAM

Creation, Man, and Sin –

- God directly created the world.
- Sin is a violation of God’s character and commands.
- All have sinned and were created “weak.”

CHRISTIANS

Salvation

- Jesus paid the full payment for all of our sins by innocently dying on the cross and coming back to life three days later. (1Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 9:12; Titus 3:5)
- Since Jesus paid the price for us, there is no other requirement of works or rites required to pay for our sins. (Romans 5:9; Hebrews 10:12-18)
- Salvation is the forgiveness of sin and the application of Jesus righteousness on our account. (Romans 3:21-22; 4:23-24)
- Salvation is attained only by placing one's unreserved faith on the person of Jesus Christ and in the atonement that He made for us. (Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9)

ISLAM

Salvation –

- There is no substitute punishment for salvation – there is no _____.
- Salvation is based on the _____ and forgiveness of Allah. Forgiveness is based on fiat rather than the satisfaction of his wrath (atonement).
- One's good and bad deeds are weighed on a scale and if one has built enough good credits they may be forgiven.
- Credits to one's good includes the "five pillars"
 1. Recitation of the *Shahada*. "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah."
 2. Five daily prescribed prayers – the *Salat*
 3. Charity giving which is a percentage of one's income to help others – done privately.
 4. Fasting (month of Ramadan) – not eating from sunrise to sunset for the month.

5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (*Hajj*) at least once in their lifetime.
6. (terrorists add six) *Jihad*. Peaceful *Imams* define Jihad as the spiritual war within the Muslim.

CHRISTIANS

Heaven and Hell –

- Heaven proper is where God lives (1K 8:30)
- Heaven is where people who have been saved go when they die (Acts 7:59-60; 2Cor 5:8)
- Death occurs when the _____ and the _____ separate. The soul being immortal and the body being mortal. (1Cor 5:8;
- After death there is no “second chance” (Heb 9:27)
- People not saved will not enter heaven and instead go to hell (John 3:18; Rev 20:15; 21:22)
- Hell is a place of _____ where unsaved people go until permanently cast into the Lake of Fire where they will consciously and eternally suffer (John 3:18; Revelation 20:11-15)

ISLAM

Heaven and Hell –

- Heaven, or paradise, is achieved by the _____ a Muslim does.
- Heaven (“*Janna*”) is a garden paradise where eternal sensual and spiritual pleasures abound including wine, women, and song (maybe not ‘song’).
- Hell is a place of eternal suffering for those who do not “make it.”